

The Inner-Life Freedom with Boundaries

by Pastor William Richardson, Afton Assembly of God

It's not a good idea to drive an Interstate speed on a regular highway. Not reducing your speed can result in seeing police car lights flashing in your rear-view mirror. Likewise, in a movie theater, a person is free to laugh out loud, to cry, or to applaud, but not to yell "Fire!" unless there is one.

When we exceed certain understood boundaries, we can bring harm to others. Or we may adversely affect our own future. The Israelites, freed from Egyptian bondage, needed boundaries as they made their way through the desert to the Promised Land. God gave them the Ten Commandments and other laws for their protection and well-being. Whenever they exceeded those boundaries, they faced natural consequences.

In the New Testament, God relaxed most of the laws specifically for the Israelites. He didn't, however, waive the moral laws, nor the rules concern-

ing how we're to value other human beings. The gospels and the New Testament letters clearly describe how God's followers should and shouldn't use their words and actions.

Freedoms always mean the most when framed by protective limits. The Israelites' journey with boundaries took forty years. Ours takes longer. They walked the whole way. We're free to drive. When we do, we'll enjoy greater freedom if we drive the posted speed limit while respecting the guardrails.

"Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover or pretext for evil, but [use it and live] as bond-servants of God" (I Peter 2:16, AMP).

Strengthening the Inner Life: Is there a God-set boundary that you're expected to exceed?

God set certain limits for us, then promised to help us keep them. If you need to, ask Him to help you today. Enjoy the freedom of living within God's safe boundaries.

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treat then, and we had the Christmas spirit.

About a dozen years back, when we lived north of town, our two grandsons came down from Minnesota to stay a couple of weeks. I showed them how to make a shingle-dart thrower. They were very simple. Just a limber stick three or four feet long with about two feet of string on the end. We then cut some darts out of wood shingles. Left about a two-inch fin on the back, cut the rest down to about three-fourths of an inch, and cut a notch in them in the middle to hook a knot on the end of the string in. You hold on to the fin and pull the spring in the stick, give it a flip, and if you shot it straight up, it would go very nearly out of sight. Of course, they usually came down in the trees. Well, we made lots of darts and had a band saw to cut them with, but we had to whittle them when I was a kid. When they went home, they took the throwers and a supply of darts.

About a year ago, the younger one came down to his cousin's wedding. He stayed with us a couple of nights, and he told me he still had his thrower, but he didn't have any shingles for darts. I wondered why would a boy keep an old stick with a string on it all these years. He had always had lots of toys. I decided it must have meant something to him.

Now, as I look at my great-grandson surrounded by toys that toot and whistle and run their batteries down, I think how lucky they are. And then again, I wonder.

K'Lea Johnson 2025

When we were young, Gramps and Granny had the old car wash out on the south edge of Afton.

The toy box in the spare bedroom at Gramps and Granny's was filled with toys either donated by family members or found at the car wash.

We didn't spend much time playing with those toys. If we were stuck inside and jumping on the bed, we were outside running the timber, walking the split-rail fence, or playing with the homemade toys from Gramps' childhood. Many times, he showed us how to make them.

I remember the shake-throwers. They weren't always thrown into the air. Sometimes, we threw the darts at each other. Snowballs, darts, hickory nuts, or anything that could be thrown might elicit a conflict. The more kids involved, the better. During a snowball battle, one of us ended up with a black eye.

Amazingly, we didn't suffer many injuries, as we didn't wear helmets back then. We were allowed to make mistakes and learn from our mistakes, even if that meant a superficial injury.

We had a unique childhood and were taught to appreciate the amenities in our lives by experiencing some of the toys Forrest writes about and by listening to his stories in the evenings at the kitchen table. He is the reason I LOVE a good story and am never too busy to listen, especially when someone stops at the office for a visit.

He also taught me to laugh at myself, as it usually makes a good story.

Attend the Church of Your Choice

AFTON – Assembly of God: Browning and Filmore Streets; William Richardson, Pastor. Sunday – 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; Wednesday – 7 p.m. Bible Study, Youth; Saturday – Radio Devotional "In the Mirror" – 7:15 a.m. on Creston Radio.

ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH: 104 W. Union St., Afton, IA . Fr. Patrick Amedeka; Sunday – 10:45 a.m. Mass; Tuesday – 8 a.m. Adoration, 9 a.m. Mass; Check out our website: saintedwardafton.com. Find additional information on Facebook: Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, call the Parish Office 641-782-5278, or email holyspiritcreston@gmail.com. If you are unable to physically worship with us, we broadcast Mass on Sundays at 10 a.m. on KSIB Radio 101.3 FM. Or the Masses can be viewed on www.uccat.org. Religious Education classes are available for all children ages 1 and up through 8th grade on Sundays from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Confessions are the 1st Sunday of the month after Mass.

UNITED FAITH PARISH: United Methodist Church: Pasto Sheila Sutton, Office: 111 S Douglas, PO Box 136, Afton, IA aftonumc@iowatelecom.net;

Arispe: Sunday – 11 a.m. Service;

Afton: Sunday – 10 a.m. Service, 9 a.m. Bible Study; Wednesday – 4:15-5:30 p.m. Wednesday School K-5th grades;

Lorimor: Sunday – 8:45 a.m. Service, 10 a.m. Sunday School;

HOPEVILLE-COMMUNITY CHURCH: Closed until April;

LORIMOR - Church of God: Ben Turner,

Pastor. Sunday – 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service;

First Baptist Church: Doug Benda, Pastor; Sunday – 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service;

MURRAY – Murray Church of Christ: Brian McCracken, Pastor, Sunday – 9:30 a.m. Worship; Wednesday – 10:30 a.m. Mountain Toppers Bible Study, 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening 'Bible Study, 7 p.m. Wednesday Youth Group;

Murray Bapist Church: David W. Melton, Pastor, Sunday – 8:45 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 6 p.m. Teens and Youth meet;

Wednesday – 7 p.m. Worship Service; Church phone: 641-447-2487;

SHANNON CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH – Nondenominational: Pastor Al Rusk. Sunday – 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m. Sunday School ;

THAYER – Pleasant Valley Christian Church: Sunday – 9 a.m. Worship Service;

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

800 North Sumner Ave., Creston, the Reverend John B. Rutz, 641-782-5095. <http://www.TrinityCreston.org>

Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Sunday Divine Service with Holy Communion; Monday-Thursday - 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Preschool; Tuesday - 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Bible Study; Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. youth Confirmation Class; 7:00 Lenten Divine Service;



The word grace in Scripture is used in many different ways. In the Old Testament, it is often included with "grace-words" when the writer is speaking of God's loyalty or forgiveness, His steadfast love or loving-kindness. It is also used in association with relationships, such as the relationship of a superior to an inferior. And this is noteworthy: An inferior cannot show a superior grace. In other words, we cannot show God grace. Everything flows from His grace, and there is nothing we have that did not come from Him.

In the New Testament, the word for grace is charis - a word used when speaking of forgiveness. From it comes our word "charity" - giving something to someone when they do not

deserve it, or cannot get it themselves. It also implies being "gracious" - that is, grace in action.

Showing God's grace is what Christians are to do after they accept God's grace. And unless we show it, we might question whether or not we really have it!

For example, when we are saved by grace, we are to become gracious and act differently. Cruelty is to be replaced with kindness, anger with acceptance, rejection with reconciliation, and giving instead of always getting.

Grace is certainly a comprehensive word. It is as wide as the world. Remember what Jesus said: "God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him shall be saved."

Our indebtedness to God for His grace is beyond us. Our indebtedness to show His grace to others is not optional.

Visit us at: SowerMinistries.org PS 198

City of Lorimor Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting Lorimor City Hall 503 Main Street

June 23, 2025 6:00 PM

6:00PM. Meeting called to order by Tim O'Neil, Mayor Pledge of Allegiance Roll Call: Mayor Tim O'Neil Council: Jody King, Matt Lenhart, Dustin Ross, Karen Tucker & Joshua McElroy. Caroline

Cottrell, City Clerk/ Treasurer

Absent: None

Motion by King to approve the agenda. Seconded by Tucker. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion of Jason Dukes's possible Family Medical Leave (FMLA).

Motion by McElroy to adjourn. Seconded by Lenhart. Roll Call: All Ayes

6:12PM Meeting Adjourned

East Union Community School District Public Notice

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The East Union Community School District will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Collaborative Learning Center at East Union CSD, 1916 High School Drive, Afton, IA.

The purpose of the hearing is to gather public input on proposed modifications to the previously approved 2025–2026 school calendar. The Board is considering adjustments, including the

possibility of ending the school year the Friday before Memorial Day.

The originally approved calendar and proposed revisions will be available on the district website and at the District Office prior to the hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in advance to the Superintendent's Office.

For more information, call (641) 347-5215.

By order of the East Union Board of Directors

East Union is once again offering free summer meals to all kids 18 years old and younger throughout much of the summer.

Meals served in Afton will be at the School building from June 2nd through July 24th, Monday through Thursday. Breakfast will be available from 8-8:30 a.m.; lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - noon. The meals must be eaten on-site.

The Meals delivered to Lorimor will be delivered on Mondays, June 2nd, and continue through July 21st from 12-12:30 p.m. Four breakfasts and four lunches will be given to each child or teen 18 years old and younger to take home and eat throughout the week.



Union County Supervisors Meeting Minutes

REGULAR SESSION JUNE 18, 2025

The Union County Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session on Wednesday June 18th, 2025, at 9:00AM, with the following Board members present, Dennis Hopkins, Rick Friday and Dennis Brown.

AGENDA: Motion by Hopkins and seconded by Friday to approve the agenda. All voting aye, motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Friday and seconded by Hopkins to approve minutes from Wednesday, June 18th, 2025. All voting aye, motion carried.

OPEN FORUM: No comments were made in open forum.

SECONDARY ROADS: Al Hysell, Union County Roads Superintendent, presented and discussed the weekly maintenance activity report and spray map.

CLERK'S REPORT: Motion by

Hopkins and seconded by Friday to accept the monthly Clerk's Report as presented by Union County Sandy Hysell. All voting aye, motion carried.

CREDIT CARD: Motion Friday by and seconded by Hopkins to approve a Union County Credit Card for Conservation Director Mike Hilger. All voting aye, motion carried

COUNTY ORDINANCES: Board went through Ordinance #10 and #11. Auditor will send Ordinance #10 to County Attorney, Shane O'Toole to check on the Iowa Code Sections listed in the ordinance and make the necessary changes if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM.

BY:

DENNIS J BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: SANDY HYSELL, AUDITOR



LAKE SHORE GOLF COURSE AND CLUB HOUSE

Sat, July 12, - VFW Tournament
Mon, July 14, 8:30 a.m. - Golden Girls
Sat, July 19, 9 a.m. - Ladies invitational
Fri, July 25 - Golf Night
Mon, July 28, 8:30 a.m. - Seniors West

1857 Golf Club Dr • Afton, IA
641-347-5221

lakeshoregolfcc1857@gmail.com

CREST AREA THEATRE Presents: The Beverly HILLBILLIES Fri., July 11th at 7 p.m. Sat., July 12th at 7 p.m. Sun., July 13th at 2 p.m. SWCC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER All seats \$12 NO advance sales Look for us on Facebook and instagram

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